

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-23 were pending. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. No claims have been added. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended without introducing new matter. Claims 1 and 3-23 remain pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 9-23 have been allowed over the prior art of record.

Claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1, the base claim of claim 2, to include substantially all the limitation of claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is now allowable. Claim 3 has been amended to include substantially all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4 depends directly from claim 3. It is respectfully submitted that the objections have been overcome and allowance of claims 1 and 3-4 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,114,807 of Kavanagh ("Kavanagh"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. For the reason discussed above, claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by Kavanagh. Claims 7-8 depend directly from claim 1. Thus, having additional limitations, claims 7-8 are not anticipated by Kavanagh for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent

No. 6,670,758 of Beech et al. ("Beech"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

For the reason discussed above, claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by Beech.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,114,807 of Kavanagh ("Kavanagh") in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claims 5-6 depend directly from claim 1, which is now allowable for the reason discussed above. Thus, having additional limitations, claims 5-6 are patentable over Kavanagh in view of the alleged AAPA for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the remarks, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the pending claims be allowed.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. If any other petition is necessary for consideration of this paper, it is hereby so petitioned.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 2/8, 2006



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